



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

July 10, 2008

Reply To  
Attn Of: ETPA-088

Ref: 03-002-BIA

Ms. Donna Smith, Environmental Coordinator  
BIA, Spokane Agency  
P. O. Box 389  
Wellpinit, WA 99040

Ms. Smith:

The EPA has reviewed the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed **Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP)** (CEQ# 20080236) for the Spokane Indian Reservation in Stevens County, WA. Our review was conducted in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. Section 309, independent of NEPA, specifically directs EPA to review and comment in writing on the environmental impacts associated with all major federal actions.

In our comments on the draft EIS/IRMP in November 2006, EPA expressed environmental concerns with the EIS/IRMP project due to water quality and quantity impacts. EPA also had concerns about use of the Midnite Mine site before contamination cleanup was completed and monitoring showed the site posed no further threats to human health and the environment. We also recommended that missing or unclear information be provided in the FEIS.

We appreciate the changes made to the EIS between draft and final using comments received from agencies and the public, and new data obtained after publication of the draft EIS. In particular, we are pleased with the availability of EPA Record Of Decision (ROD) for the Midnite Mine Superfund Site remedy. We also support the Spokane Tribe's commitment to implement IRMP projects consistent with the ROD. Your responses addressed our concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the final IRMP/EIS. If you have questions or comments concerning our review, please contact Theo Mbabaliye at (206) 553-6322 or me at (206) 553-1601.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager  
NEPA Review Unit

cc:  
EPA Washington Operations Office  
Jim Zokan, Idaho Operations Office